



# FLRA NEWS

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY - WASHINGTON, DC 20424

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<https://www.flra.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **AUTHORITY SOLICITS COMMENTS ON A REQUEST FOR A GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY OR GUIDANCE**

The Federal Labor Relations Authority (Authority) solicits written comments on a request from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for a general statement of policy or guidance (general statement) concerning “zipper clauses” as a subject of bargaining. OPM has requested, under Section 2427.2(a) of the Authority’s Regulations (5 C.F.R. § 2427.2(a)), that the Authority issue a general statement of policy or guidance holding that “zipper clauses”—which are provisions that would foreclose or limit mid-term bargaining during the term of a collective-bargaining agreement—are a mandatory subject of bargaining.

In its request, OPM asks the Authority to issue a general statement holding that zipper clauses are a mandatory topic of bargaining and, therefore, parties may bargain to impasse regarding both reopener and zipper clauses.

Interested persons are asked to address the following questions, which are set forth in a “Notice of Opportunity To Comment on a Request for a General Statement of Policy or Guidance on Whether ‘Zipper Clauses’ Are Mandatory Subjects of Bargaining,” appearing in today’s Federal Register:

1. Whether issuance of a general statement of policy or guidance is warranted, under the standards set forth in Section 2427.5 of the Authority’s Regulations (5 C.F.R. § 2427.5)?
2. If so, what the Authority’s policy or guidance should be?

The Federal Register notice can be found [here](#). The Authority will consider written comments that are received on or before April 30, 2020, by email or postal mail. Further filing instructions may be found in the Federal Register notice. For additional information, contact Emily Sloop, Chief, Case Intake and Publication, at (202) 218-7740.

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*The Federal Labor Relations Authority administers the labor-management relations program for 2.1 million non-Postal federal employees worldwide, approximately 1.2 million of whom are represented in 2,200 bargaining units. The Authority is charged with resolving disputes under, and ensuring compliance with, the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute. The Authority’s mission is “Protecting rights and facilitating stable relationships among federal agencies, labor organizations, and employees while advancing an effective and efficient government through the administration of the statute.”*